

Central Mountain Accommodation Review
Key Themes from Tuesday, October 8th 2013 Public Meeting

Members:

- Colin Hazell
- Marney Campbell
- Candice Campbell
- Dianna Gamble

1. Program Offerings

- o Keeping as specialized classes with moving systems programs (music, French, character networks)

2. Transportation

- o Policy takes into account crossing major streets (1km limit to busing FDK)

3. Timelines

- o How can this all happen as soon as they say it will?
 - Close schools June 2013
 - Move to new school September 2014?

Members:

- Jennifer Clarke
- Candice Romaker

Common Themes

- o Families leaving public school/system
- o Parents feel data provided is inaccurate
- o High concern for loss of programs currently being offered (i.e., Daycare, special needs)
- o Personal safety of students with such high number of students on small playgrounds

Members:

- Janeen Schaeffer
- Barbara Jalsevac

Common Themes

A) Student Impact

- Time spent on a bus
- Accessibility

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- Special Education program considerations
 - Small vs. large schools
 - Aggressive timelines impact student adjustment
 - B) Community
 - Impact of busing on street congestion
 - Impact of busing on environment
 - C) Costs
 - What is the FCI of new schools after 5 years?
 - Adding A/C
 - D) Data
 - Accuracy
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Members:

- Denise McCafferty
- Leanne Friesen
- Doug Trimble

- A) Facility Utilization
 - o Room for before/after school programs if school is operating at capacity
 - o Over enrollment in the future – current date projections are incorrect
 - o Moving to a different school board instead of switching schools – Queensdale Parent Survey
 - o Will there still be space for partnerships – Early Years?
- B) Program Offerings
 - o Concern about Special Needs programs (will they transition to the new building, worry about space and program offering in larger learning environments)
- C) Quality Teaching & Learning Environments
 - o Concerns about the “ideal” larger school model (K-8, 500+ students)
 - o More advantages to a small school model – more opportunity for 1:1 attention/support, small school creates closer community and school culture

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D) Transportation

- Want to walk to school – healthy/active living
- Do not want students spending time on buses
- JK/SK students on buses cause for concern
- Concern about increased volume of traffic in communities
- Children crossing busy streets
- Cost/environmental impact of increased transportation

E) Community Partnerships

- Linden Park - Early Years, Sacville Community Centre

F) Equity

- Concerns about wheelchair accessibility
- Green space/playground
- Air Conditioning
- Students having access to the quality learning environments that they already have – committee recommends

G) Other

- Timelines
- This is happening too fast
- No transition plan
- Concern about communities coming together
- Need time – commitment for renovations – some major renovations needed

Members:

- Marj Howden
- Jamie McLean
- Patricia Mousseau

Common Themes

- Big school vs. small school
- Questioning the data (research)
- Student impact vs. student achievement (which is more important)

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Members:

- Laurie Walowinc
- Laurie Van der Zyden
- Adam Hinks

Key Themes

- o Reference criteria
 - o Student impact
 - o Community date
 - o Timelines
 - o Emotionally, safety
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Members:

- Kathy Long
- Linda Astle
- Sharon Miller
- Diana Asrani

Question #4 pages 1 -3

The key themes for question #4 are concerns regarding transportation, and the time lines are too fast/unrealistic and equity between school communities in regards to new schools and renovations. Impact on students was another key theme with a focus on impact on student friendships, increased bullying in a larger school, and concerns about availability of special programs.

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Members:

- Robert Nixon
- Amber Bourque
- Jennifer Lockhart
- Tracy
- Julie Beattie

Key Themes:

*Trust - concern voiced that there is a lack of trust for HWDSB (i.e. Is there a hidden agenda?)

*Facility Issues - concern about condition of playgrounds

- Fully accessible plant is important
- Concern that facility condition might trump thoughtful consideration of best programming opportunities, best location for students

Under existing headings:

Student Impact (adding)

- Concern that students will be lost in very big schools
- Concern about maintaining integrity of relationships
- Concern about maintaining integrity of programming
- Desire to have clarity about the specific gains for students in any change
- Concern that larger schools are not beneficial for younger students
- concern that music, art, specialized programs be available/supported

Timelines (adding)

- Concern that space would not be ready to fully support students by Sept. 2014

Transportation (adding)

- Concern about the cost of busing
- Concern about longer trips
- Concern about congestion at pick up/drop-off times

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- Concern about increased walking distances for small children
- Concern about the increase in the number of children on buses

Costs (adding)

- Want to know cost of building new vs. renovation

Daycare (adding)

- Concern for students in a neighbourhood daycare - will buses be available as there is for students leaving for school from home?
- Concern about possible loss/disruption of daycare arrangements
- concern about effect on students attending current school out of catchment (eg. For daycare reasons)

Enrolment (adding)

Concern population shifts may cause overcrowding

Reference Criteria (adding)

- Clarity needed around terms in terms of reference ("facility utilization", "equity", etc.)